



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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March 15, 2006

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**EVENT: Indictment**

**Defendant: Markita D. Darden**

**TAX PREPARER INDICTED FOR FILING FALSE TAX RETURNS**

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Markita Dionne Darden, 31, of Detroit was indicted by a federal grand jury in Detroit on charges of aiding and assisting in the preparation of false income tax returns, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Internal Revenue Service Special Agent in Charge Maurice Aouate.

According to the indictment, Darden allegedly prepared 36 separate returns involving 12 taxpayers, from February 21, 2003 through April 15, 2004.

"At this time of year it is important that taxpayers remember that they are ultimately responsible for their tax returns, no matter who prepares them. The taxpayer may be subject

to fines and penalties if the tax returns are false. Our tax system relies on the honesty of all citizens,” said U.S. Attorney Murphy.

“IRS Criminal Investigations focus on return preparers who use tax returns as a tool to steal from the government. We will continue to work with the United States Attorney's Office to investigate and prosecute these types of cases to the fullest extent of the law,” said Maurice Aouate, Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service.

In announcing the indictment, Mr. Murphy commended the work of the Special Agents of the Internal Revenue Service which conducted the investigation.

The charges carry a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment and/or a \$250,000 fine on each count of the indictment.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The prosecution is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Kenneth R. Chadwell